## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Systems and methods for contact image sensor based inspection of specimens are provided. A system configured to inspect a specimen may include a contact image sensor. The contact image sensor may include a light source configured to direct light toward a surface of the specimen and a linear sensor array configured to detect light returned from the surface. The system may further include a processor configured to determine a presence of defects on the surface using the detected light. A method for inspecting the specimen may include directing light from a light source toward a surface of the specimen and detecting light returned from the surface using a linear sensor array. The light source and the linear sensor array may be arranged in a contact image sensor. The method may further include determining a presence of defects on the surface from the detected light.